

collect our baggage and hasten down to the shore. The whole population of Easter Island seemed to have collected to watch our departure, and we found that most of the men intended to pay a visit to the ship for the purpose of selling the curious carved wooden figures they produce in extraordinary numbers.

We took off with us a consignment of twenty sheep and a pig, a very welcome addition to our stores, and a quantity of greenstuff and vegetables. So heavily was the island boat laden on which we at first proposed to embark, that a rock on which she was lying pierced her bottom, and we were compelled to wait for our ship's boats to come and fetch us off.

In the course of the afternoon all were got safely on board, and as darkness came upon us we steamed slowing out of the bay and were off on our homeward journey northward over the wide Pacific.

*Our thanks to Thomas Christopher for supplying this gem*

### WMF Mission to Easter Island

At the request of the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales from Chile and the Rapa Nui National Park (RNNP) on Easter Island, World Monuments Fund in collaboration with a grant from American Express, sponsored a mission to develop a monitoring system at the Ceremonial Center of Mata Ngarau in the archaeological site of 'Orongo, on Easter Island. The mission was carried out in collaboration with the National Park Service, through an agreement this institution has with the Chilean counterpart, CONAF. Blaine Cliver and Raul Vazquez, NPS, and Michael Schuller, Atkinson-Noland Associates, were in charge of the installation and surveying of reference points for the necessary monitoring measurements. The Mata Ngarau Ceremonial Center is located on the edge of the Rano Kau volcano, 300 m above sea level. The site was devoted to the bird-man cult and was only used in spring (during the month of September) while sea birds returned to nest on the three islets opposite this southwest tip of Easter Island. There are over 1,700 petroglyphs carved on the boulders of this site, some of which are perilously perched above the steep cliff. Concern about the possible movement of these boulders as the cliff slope erodes with time, prompted this mission. For monitoring purposes, minute pins were installed on the petroglyph-covered boulders to serve as measurement points in conjunction with benchmarks installed in the ground and on neighboring rock ledges. Measurements were taken with a laser distance-measuring theodolite as well as with a measuring tape, since this latter method will be used by the rangers of the RNNP to monitor the boulders regularly, i.e., twice a year, to detect any significant movement. If no movement is detected within three years, theodolite measurements should be re-taken at the site. In addition to measuring the stone positions, photographs taken by Dr. William Mulloy of the Mata Ngarau site in 1974 were replicated as closely as possible, to determine visually if there was any indication of movement over the past 27 years.

The mission also included, under the supervision of Dr A. Elena Charola and with the assistance of Antoinette Padgett, the training of park rangers in the measurement of carving depth of petroglyphs through the use of a profiling gauge. Although this low-tech approach is slow and labor intensive it can be easily



Measuring the petroglyph boulders at Mata Ngarau. Photograph by A. Elena Charola.

carried out by the rangers, and may prove useful in obtaining a more quantitative assessment of the deterioration rate of this rock art.

Finally, a three-day seminar on "Conservation of the Rapa Nui Archaeological Heritage" was carried out at the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert (MAPSE). The seminar, addressed specifically to park rangers and tour guides, was co-organized with the RNNP and the Museum. An average of thirty participants attended these lectures each evening. Lecturers and topics included Marcos Rauch, Head of the RNNP, on site management issues; Francisco Torres, Head of MAPSE, on management and care of archaeological collections; Raul Vazquez, on the principles of the monitoring system installed at 'Orongo; Antoinette Padgett, on conservation problems of rock art and management of these sites; and, A. Elena Charola, on conservation issues of the archaeological heritage, i.e., monumental statues and petroglyphs, in light of the ethics and theory of conservation.

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### MOAI SIGHTINGS

ARRIVING IN A DEAD HEAT, we received two notices about cast resin *moai*, to be used in your own gardens as "...a sacred space for contemplation, whether in a quiet corner or as a centerpiece in a spectacular planting." Betsy Hamel sent us pages from a catalog at the same time as we got notice from Bill Liller in Chile (via email). Thanks guys. These heads/busts of scowling *moai* are two feet high and cost \$98.95 each. The ad states that they are replicas [sic] of originals dating from "380 A.D." The description: "Replicate the mystical presence of Easter Island in your own garden! Assumed to be depictions of deceased chiefs, heroes or gods, the giant statues on Easter Island are some of the world's most intriguing, mysterious and photographed archaeological artifacts."